

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**CHIEF HEARING OFFICER DIRECTIVE**

**DOCKET NO. 2021-143-E and 2021-144-E ORDER NO. 2021-106-H**

**JULY 26, 2021**

**CHIEF HEARING OFFICER: David Butler**

**DOCKET DESCRIPTION:**

**Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC (“DEP”) for Approval of Smart \$aver Solar as Energy Efficiency Program**

**Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (“DEC”) for Approval of Smart \$aver Solar as Energy Efficiency Program**

**MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION:**

**Petition to Intervene of Vote Solar in both Dockets.**

**CHIEF HEARING OFFICER’S ACTION:**

**This matter comes before the Chief Hearing Officer on the Petition to Intervene of Vote Solar in these two Dockets. The Petition is timely filed, and no objections to the interventions have been filed.**

**These Dockets were opened for the purpose of examining Petitions for approval of Smart \$aver Solar Energy Efficiency Programs for DEC and DEP, so that such programs could potentially be included in the Companies’ suites of energy efficiency and demand side management programs. The Programs are designed to reduce energy consumption by incentivizing the installation of rooftop solar at residential households. Specifically, the Program gives the customers the option to earn an upfront incentive for installing rooftop solar if they also enroll in the winter-focused Power Manager Load Control Service Rider, known as Bring Your Own Thermostat (“Winter BYOT Program). This program provides for winter-focused demand response and was previously approved for both DEP and DEC in Order No. 2020-830.**

**After it has been determined that the Petition has been timely filed, the next question for the Commission is to determine whether or not the petitioning party or parties have clear factual support or grounds for the proposed intervention. S.C. Regs. 103-825A(3) requires that parties filing a Petition to Intervene in a matter pending before the SC Public Service Commission must:**

**set forth clearly and concisely:**

- (a) The facts from which the nature of the petitioner's alleged right or interest can be determined;**
- (b) The grounds of the proposed intervention;**

**(c) The position of the petitioner in the proceeding.**

**Vote Solar states that it is a non-profit, grassroots organization that works to foster economic opportunity, promote energy independence for consumers, and address environmental concerns by making solar generation accessible and cost-effective for all Americans. Vote Solar also asserts that it works to bring solar into the mainstream by engaging at the local, state, and federal levels to help remove regulatory barriers and implement policies and programs to bring solar to scale. Established in 2002, Vote Solar notes that it has over 110,000 members nationally and more than 2,300 in South Carolina, including members who receive electricity service from Duke Energy and who will be directly impacted by the net metering and energy efficiency policies at issue in this proceeding. According to Vote Solar, Commission approval of the Program will provide those members with an opportunity to reduce their energy consumption and utility bills.**

**From these facts, this Hearing Officer holds that Vote Solar has successfully satisfied the three criteria for intervention stated in the Regulation. Vote Solar's interest in these matters can clearly be discerned, as can the grounds for the intervention, and its position in both Dockets.**

**Further, the Petition to Intervene was timely filed and there are no objections to the intervention. Accordingly, the Petition to Intervene of Vote Solar is hereby granted in both Dockets. This ends the Chief Hearing Officer's Directive.**